



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 10, 2018

Taylor Amarel  
Dept. 57419  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144  
*Via e-mail to 53411-14524290@requests.muckrock.com; 53412-66222368@requests.muckrock.com; 53413-69292153@requests.muckrock.com; 53414-16707111@requests.muckrock.com; 53415-78988480@requests.muckrock.com; 57419-57980037@requests.muckrock.com; amarel-journalism-acc@tutanota.com*

Re: FOIA Control Nos. 2018-606, 2018-607, 2018-646, 2018-647, 2018-648, 2018-649, 2018-650, 2018-651, 2018-674, 2018-677, 2018-709, 2018-711, 2018-744

Mr. Amarel:

By our records, we have processed or are processing the following FOIA requests on your behalf:

- 2018-606 (Completed): All emails sent to, from, or copied to ryan.yates@fcc.gov, from January 1, 2018 to Present day containing any of the following non-case-sensitive key-strings: “371”, “Amarel”, “MuckRock”, “Reese”, “sexy”, or “Amarel”
- 2018-607 (Completed): All emails sent to, from, or copied to Ajit Pai (Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov) containing the non-case-sensitive key string “reese” (Reeses or Reese's) from January 1, 2016 to present day
- 2018-646 (Pending): All emails sent to, from, or copied Ajit Pai at any of his applicable email addresses for the period January 23, 2018 through February 1, 2018
- 2018-647, -648, and -649, -650, -651 (Completed): All emails sent to, from, or copied to Matthew Berry, Alison Nemeth, Zenji Nakazawa, Kim Mattos, and Deanne Erwin containing any of the following non-case-sensitive key-strings: “reeses”, “ethics”, “mug”, “liberals”, or “Reese's” from January 1, 2017 to present day
- 2018-674 (Pending): All emails sent to, from, or copied to Ajit Pai (Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov) containing the non-case-sensitive key string “Pruitt” or “Pruit” from January 1, 2016 to present day
- 2018-677 (Pending): All emails sent to, from, or copied to Ajit Pai from 1/1/18 to present day containing the non-case-sensitive key string “FOIA”
- 2018-709 (Pending): All emails sent to, from, or copied to Ajit Pai from January 1, 2018, to present day containing the non-case-sensitive key-string cyber security

- 2018-711 (Pending): All emails sent to, from, or copied to: Ajit Pai, from January 1, 2016 to Present Day containing any of the following non-case-sensitive key-string liberals, kushner, Giuliani, Mastroianni, Elliott Broidy, Mark Siffin, EB-5, George Nader, Erik Prince, alias, FOIA, Israel or whistleblower.
- 2018-744 (Pending): The last 200 pages of emails sent to, from, or copied to OCHPaiStaff@fcc.gov.

On May 21, 2018, Commission staff contacted you and estimated the fees for the first five requests listed above to be \$232.89. On May 22, 2018, Commission staff increased the estimate to \$298.77, based your additional filing of FOIA 2018-677. On June 12, 2018, Commission staff contacted you again and provided an updated fee estimate of \$430.53, based on your additional filing of FOIA 2018-709 and FOIA 2018-711. The same day, you authorized a fee of \$430.53.

The time and expense required to process your requests has exceeded our initial estimates. To date, your requests have resulted in charges to you of \$375.56, with six requests still pending. Based on the estimates set out in our May 21 fee letter, each of the six remaining requests is estimated to take 0.75 hours of GS-15 search time to complete, for a total of 4.5 hours of GS-15 time. This time is billed at a rate of \$87.84/hour, resulting in an estimated charge of \$395.28. Combined with your already accrued fee of \$375.56, this would result in a total charge to you of \$770.84. We emphasize that this is only an estimate, and that actual fees may be substantially above or below this figure.

This estimated fee considerably exceeds the \$430.53 you have previously authorized. We are writing to seek your authorization to accrue fees up to \$770.84. Also, due to the considerable amount of estimated fees, the Commission requires advance payment of the total estimated fee.<sup>1</sup>

Please inform us by July 24, 2018, as to whether you authorize the \$770.84 in estimated fees. If you do, the Financial Operations office will contact you with an invoice allowing you to pay the estimated fee in advance. If you do not authorize these fees, or if we do not hear from you by the date above, we will administratively close your remaining requests.

Sincerely,



Ryan Yates  
Attorney Advisor

cc: FCC FOIA Office

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 CFR 0.469(a) (permitting the Commission to require advance payment of fees if the charges are likely to exceed \$250 and the requester has no prior history of payment).